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Patent Application
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APPENDIX A

1. (Currently Amended): A method for an ordering and payment allocation system for a seller, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system, two or more orders from at least one buyer, the orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, at the ordering and payment allocation system, the orders into a consolidated invoice;

making the consolidated invoice available to the at least one buyer;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system, the consolidated invoice from the at least one buyer, wherein the consolidated invoice includes an indication from the at least one buyer as to which of the orders a payment is being approved; [[and]]

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system, an aggregated payment from the at least one buyer;

disaggregating the aggregated payment by associating portions of the aggregated payment with a corresponding subsidiary; and

allocating the portions of the aggregated payment to [[a]] the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made.

2. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the orders are received electronically.
3. (Original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

4. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1 further comprising the act of evaluating a received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's organization and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the received order.

5. (Original): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the acts of:
 booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and
 creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

6. (Original): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

7. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

8. (Original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

9. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

10. (Original): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

11. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of an availability of the consolidated invoice;
distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and
transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

12. (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

13. (Original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

14. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

15. (Original): The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

16. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

17. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:
a payment date;
a payment method;
a payment reference;
a payment amount;

a from currency;
a to currency;
f/x, tax and fee data;
a distribution status; and
an amount distributed.

18. (Original): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of processing the received payment.

19. (Original): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;
matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller;
providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:
receiving the matched data;
applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and
updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

20. (Original): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

21. (Original): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the allocation act is comprised of the acts of:
- receiving the authorized payment;
- disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;
- processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;
- generating at least one funding report;
- delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
- transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

22. (Original): The method according to Claim 21, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

23. (Original): The method according to Claim 22, wherein the funding report comprises:

- a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;
- a payment date;
- results of exception and dispute processing;
- sub-invoice details; and
- reason codes.

24. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the allocation act includes the acts of:

- receiving the payment;

determining an incremental funding amount;
funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if
the incremental funding amount equals or exceed a predetermined total
when combined with a holding account amount; and
allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when
the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when
combined with the holding account amount.

25.-66 (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended): A storage medium storing computer executable
programmatic code for an order management system for a seller, which, when executed,
performs the acts of:

receiving, at the order management system, two or more orders from at least one
buyer, the orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the
seller;

consolidating, at the order management system, the orders into a consolidated
invoice;

making the consolidated invoice available to the at least one buyer;

receiving, at the order management system, the consolidated invoice from the at
least one buyer, wherein the consolidated invoice includes an indication
from the at least one buyer as to which of the orders a payment is being
authorized[[.]];

receiving, at the order management system, an aggregated payment from the at
least one buyer;

disaggregating the aggregated payment by associating portions of the aggregated payment with a corresponding subsidiary; and
allocating the portions of the aggregated payment to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made.

68. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the orders are received electronically.

69. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

70. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the order.

71. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 70, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and
creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

72. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 71, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

73. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

74. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 73, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

75. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

76. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

77. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the availability of the consolidated invoice;

distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and

transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

78. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

79. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the buyer's approval indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

80. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

81. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

82. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

83. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records which include:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

84. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of processing the received payment.

85. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:
- performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;
- matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller; and
- providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:
- receiving the matched data;
- applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and
- updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

86. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

87. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act comprising the acts of:

receiving the authorized payment;

disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;

processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;

generating at least one funding report;

delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and

transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

88. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 87, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

89. (Original): The storage medium according to Claim 88, wherein the funding report comprises at least one of:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;

a payment date;

results of exception and dispute processing;

sub-invoice details; and

reason codes.

90. (Previously Presented): The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act that includes the acts of:

receiving a payment;

determining an incremental funding amount;

funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if

the incremental funding amount equals or exceed a predetermined total

when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

92.-93. (Canceled)

94. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 67 wherein the programmatic code further performs the act of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

95. (Canceled)

96. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining before the order is booked whether the at least one buyer is able to effect payment.

97. (New) A method for a payment allocation system for a seller, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at the payment allocation system, two or more orders or order data from at least one buyer, the seller, or at least one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, at the payment allocation system, the orders or order data into a consolidated invoice;

making the consolidated invoice available to the at least one buyer;

receiving, at the payment allocation system, the consolidated invoice from the at least one buyer, wherein the consolidated invoice includes an indication from the at least one buyer as to which of the orders a payment is being approved;

receiving, at the payment allocation system, an aggregated payment from the at least one buyer;

disaggregating the aggregated payment by associating portions of the aggregated payment with a corresponding subsidiary; and
allocating the portions of the aggregated payment to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made.